cleared by Government and the work on inland water transport has started and the number of the proposals pending with Government; and

(c) by when the pending proposals are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) The Government have received three proposals under Centrally Sponsored Scheme for development of Inland Water Transport from State Govt, of Madhya Pradesh- (i) Development of Intra-reservoir in Indira Sagar and Rani Awantibai Sagar Reservoir, (ii) Development of Inland Water Transport in Sone River at Banasagar Reservoir, (iii) Development of Inland water transport in Chambal River at Gandhisagar Reservoir. All these three proposals have already been sanctioned and an amount of Rs. 171.20 lakhs have been released to the State Govt, of Madhya Pradesh for these three proposals.

Private participation in road construction

2818. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

whether it is a fact that Government are considering to hand over a major share of road construction projects to the private players; and

if so, the details in this regard, with details of the terms and conditions governing such private participation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. With a view to expanding the role of private sector in Road Projects, it has been decided in a meeting held under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister on March, 15, 2005 that for implementation of the National Highways Development Project (NHDP), NHDP Phase-Ill and onwards, all contracts for provision of road services would be awarded only on BOT basis (either based on toll or Annuity) with works on Government funding being made in specified exceptional cases.

As per the general terms and conditions governing Public Private Partnership Projects, the private entrepreneur shall construct, operate and maintain the highways for the entire concession period. Government shall bear the cost of land acquisition, pre-construction activities and provide Viability Gap Funding as approved by the Government. At present Government can give a grant of upto 40 per cent as viability gap funding.